

Message Text

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TAGS:OVIP (KISSINGER)

SUBJECT: PRESS MATERIAL

PLEASE PASS FULL TEXT TO LES JANKA

1. HERewith FULL TEXT BERNARD GWERTZMAN FRONT PAGE
BYLINER NEW YORK TIMES, THURSDAY, JUNE 13, HEADLINED
"CAPITAL RALLYING AROUND KISSINGER; VINDICATION ASKED".
 2. WASHINGTON, JUNE 12 -- MEMBERS OF CONGRESS AND GOVERN-
MENT OFFICIALS RALLIED TO THE SUPPORT OF SECRETARY OF
STATE KISSINGER TODAY, URGING THAT HIS REPUTATION BE
CLEARED SO HE WOULD NOT CARRY OUT HIS THREAT YESTERDAY TO
RESIGN.
 3. THE BACKING TOOK THE FORM OF SPEECHES ON CAPITOL HILL
AND EVEN A RESOLUTION INTRODUCED LATE IN THE DAY BY 39
SENATE REPUBLICANS AND DEMOCRATS EXPRESSING HIGH REGARD
FOR MR. KISSINGER. THE RESOLUTION, SPONSORED BY SENATOR
JAMES B. ALLEN, DEMOCRAT OF ALABAMA, WILL PROBABLY GAIN
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- MORE SIGNATURES TOMORROW.
4. "HOUSE COMMITTEE ASSAILED" -- THE NIXON ADMINISTRATION
SEEMED TO SEIZE ON THE KISSINGER AFFAIR TO STEP UP

CRITICISM OF THE HOUSE JUDICIARY COMMITTEE, NOW HOLDING
CLOSED IMPEACHMENT HEARINGS ON PRESIDENT NIXON.

5. BOTH VICE PRESIDENT FORD AND DEAN BURCH, COUNSELOR
TO THE PRESIDENT, CHARGED THE COMMITTEE WITH HAVING
LEAKED DEROGATORY INFORMATION ABOUT MR. KISSINGER AND
SAID THE COMMITTEE SHOULD OPEN ITS HEARINGS TO THE
PUBLIC.

6. MR. BURCH, WHO INSISTED THAT THE LEAKS WERE COMING
FROM THE COMMITTEE, EVEN THOUGH NEWSMEN MAINTAINED THIS
WAS NOT SO, SAID THAT PETER W. RODINO, JR., THE CHAIR-
MAN, HAD LOST CONTROL OF HIS COMMITTEE. THE CHARGE WAS
DENIED BY MR. RODINO AND A SENIOR REPUBLICAN IN THE
GROUP, REPRESENTATIVE ROBERT MCCLORY OF ILLINOIS.

7. THE VICE PRESIDENT TOLD NEWSMEN, "I THINK GENERALLY
THE PEOPLE WHO ARE LEAKING THIS INFORMATION ARE PRO-
IMPEACHMENT." BOTH HE AND MR. BURCH SAID IT WOULD BE A
TRAGEDY, A CALAMITY, AND CATASTROPHIC FOR MR. KISSINGER
TO RESIGN.

8. AT THE STATE DEPARTMENT, THE REACTION WAS MORE
SUBDUED AND CAUTIOUS. OFFICIALS WERE STUNNED BY
MR. KISSINGER'S OUTBURST IN SALZBURG, AUSTRIA, IN WHICH
HE SAID HE WOULD QUIT UNLESS THE SENATE FOREIGN RELATIONS
COMMITTEE DECLARED HIM FREE OF ANY IMPROPRIETY IN THE
WIRETAPPING OF OFFICIALS AND NEWSMEN.

9. SENATOR BARRY GOLDWATER, REPUBLICAN OF ARIZONA, IN
A SENATE SPEECH, CALLED FOR AN END TO THE "INCESSANT
NIT-PICKING" OVER WHAT MR. KISSINGER DID OR DID NOT SAY
ABOUT HIS WIRETAPPING ROLE, AND FOR "A DETERMINED
INQUIRY " TO PUT AN END TO LEAKS OF SECRET INFORMATION.

10. "IT IS TIME THAT WE DECIDE ONCE AND FOR ALL WHETHER
IT IS MORE IMPORTANT TO PROTECT SECRET INFORMATION
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RELATIVE TO OUR GOVERNMENT OR MORE IMPORTANT TO PROVIDE
MORE CIRCULATION FOR NEWSPAPERS, MORE VIEWERS AND
LISTENERS TO THE ELECTRONIC MEDIA, AND MORE MONEY AND
ADULATION FOR PEOPLE WILLING TO TURN AGAINST THEIR
GOVERNMENT," MR. GOLDWATER SAID.

11. COMMERCE SECRETARY FREDERICK B. DENT ISSUED A STATE-
MENT ATTACKING "THE IRRESPONSIBLE ASSAULT" ON MR.
KISSINGER'S HONOR AND ASSERTING "I HAVE CONFIDENCE IN HIS
INTEGRITY." SOME STATEMENTS SUGGESTED THAT MR.
KISSINGER WAS THE VICTIM OF A MAJOR CAMPAIGN.

12. "DOUBT ABOUT PURPOSE" -- MOST OF THE ARTICLES THAT

HAVE AROUSED MR. KISSINGER'S IRE HAVE STEMMED FROM INFORMATION SUGGESTING THAT MR. KISSINGER HAD NOT BEEN COMPLETELY CANDID IN DISCUSSING HIS ROLE IN THE WIRE-TAPPING OF 17 OFFICIALS AND NEWSMEN FROM 1969 TO 1971.

13. THE CHARGES HAVE BEEN MADE PERIODICALLY OVER THE LAST YEAR AND WERE REVIVED IN CONNECTION WITH THE HOUSE JUDICIARY COMMITTEE'S INVESTIGATION OF IMPEACHMENT CHARGES AGAINST PRESIDENT NIXON.

14. AT THE STATE DEPARTMENT, OFFICIALS WERE SURPRISED AT MR. KISSINGER'S THREAT TO RESIGN.

15. "WHAT'S AMAZING TO ME IS THAT HE THOUGHT IT WOULD DO HIM ANY GOOD," ONE SENIOR OFFICIAL SAID TODAY.

16. "I THINK THE REACTION AROUND HERE HAS RANGED FROM TOTALLY CYNICAL TO TOTALLY ANGUISHED," ANOTHER OFFICIAL SAID.

17. ANOTHER CLOSE AIDE SAID MR. KISSINGER'S HOUR-LONG

NEWS CONFERENCE "SHOWED HOW SUPER-SENSITIVE HE IS TO ANY CRITICISM."

18. EVERYONE INTERVIEWED AT THE STATE DEPARTMENT EXPRESSED THE HOPE, WITH VARYING DEGREES OF CONCERN, THAT UNCLASSIFIED

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MR. KISSINGER WOULD NOT RESIGN OUT OF PIQUE. SEVERAL OFFICIALS SAID THEY DOUBTED THAT THE ISSUE WOULD EVER BE RESOLVED COMPLETELY SATISFACTORILY.

19. "TWO THEMES STRESSED" -- TWO THEMES WERE STRUCK CONSISTENTLY IN CONVERSATIONS:

--THAT MR. KISSINGER PUBLICLY SAID IN THE MIDST OF AN IMPORTANT PRESIDENTIAL TRIP THAT HE MIGHT RESIGN UNDERSCORED HIS PERSONAL DOMINANCE IN FOREIGN POLICY "WHATEVER HIS PERSONAL CONCERN, HIS EGO IS ASTRONOMICAL," ONE OFFICIAL SAID.

--THE OUTBURST MADE CLEAR WHAT MANY OF HIS CLOSEST AIDES HAVE SAID FOR YEARS: THAT MR. KISSINGER IS THIN-SKINNED ABOUT PERSONAL CRITICISM. "I'D COMPARE YESTERDAY'S PERFORMANCE WITH HIS ATTACK ON THE FRENCH--HIGHLY EMOTIONAL AND EXAGGERATED BUT BASED ON A FEELING THAT HE WAS BEING PERSONALLY ABUSED," ANOTHER OFFICIAL SAID.

20. ON THE WHOLE, OFFICIALS TENDED TO THE VIEW THAT MR. KISSINGER WAS PROBABLY FREE OF ANY PERSONAL IMPROPRIETY BUT MANY QUESTIONED WHETHER HE SHOULD HAVE MADE SUCH AN ISSUE OUT OF IT.

21. IT WAS GENERALLY ASSUMED THAT THE SENATE FOREIGN RELATIONS COMMITTEE WOULD RECONFIRM ITS FINDINGS OF LAST SEPTEMBER THAT MR. KISSINGER WAS FIT TO SERVE AS SECRETARY OF STATE. BUT MANY OFFICIALS DOUBTED THAT MR. KISSINGER WOULD BE ABLE TO KEEP THE ISSUE OUT OF PUBLIC DISCUSSION.

22. "IT'S A PANDORA'S BOX," ONE AIDE SAID. "I DON'T THINK ANYONE CAN PREDICT NOW THE ULTIMATE RESULT OF THE PRESS CONFERENCE YESTERDAY."

23. MR. KISSINGER JOINS A LONG LINE OF SECRETARIES OF STATE WHO HAVE FOUND THEMSELVES WORKING LONG, THANKLESS HOURS ONLY TO FIND THEMSELVES ATTACKED BY THE PRESS OR CONGRESS. MR. KISSINGER WAS THE FIRST KNOWN CASE OF A SECRETARY PUBLICLY THREATENING TO RESIGN OVER A MATTER OF PERSONAL HONOR.
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24. THE CLOSEST PARALLEL WAS PROBABLY THAT OF DEAN ACHESON, WHO SERVED UNDER PRESIDENT HARRY S. TRUMAN.

25. ON JANUARY 25, 1950, THE DAY THAT ALGER HISS WAS CONVICTED OF PERJURY, MR. ACHESON SAID AT A NEWS CONFERENCE IN ANSWER TO QUESTIONS ABOUT THE FORMER STATE DEPARTMENT OFFICIAL, "I DO NOT INTEND TO TURN MY BACK ON ALGER HISS."

26. "RESIGNATION REFUSED" - MR. HISS'S CASE WAS DEEPLY CONTROVERSIAL BECAUSE OF CHARGES THAT HE HAD COMMUNIST AFFILIATIONS. MR. ACHESON, IN HIS MEMOIRS, "PRESENT AT THE CREATION," SAID HE HAD OFFERED HIS RESIGNATION TO MR. TRUMAN, BUT THE PRESIDENT HAD APPROVED HIS STATEMENT AND REFUSED TO ACCEPT THE RESIGNATION.

27. JOHN FOSTER DULLES AND DEAN RUSK, TWO OF MR. KISSINGER'S OTHER PREDECESSORS, WERE CRITICIZED FOR THE FOREIGN POLICIES THEY ESPOUSED, AND MR. RUSK YESTERDAY SAID MR. KISSINGER "SHOULD ACCUSTOM HIMSELF TO THE FACT THAT THE SECRETARY OF STATE IS SUBJECT TO CRITICISM."

28. MR. KISSINGER HAD DEVELOPED A REPUTATION IN THE STATE DEPARTMENT AS A HIGHLY EMOTIONAL PERFECTIONIST WHO CAN EXPLODE WITH ANGER AT SUBORDINATES. SOME OF HIS AIDES SAID HIS NEWS CONFERENCE SHOWED HE WAS FRUSTRATED OVER HIS INABILITY TO PREVENT THE PUBLICATION OF CHARGES THAT HE HAD BEEN LESS THAN CANDID BEFORE THE FOREIGN RELATIONS COMMITTEE.

29. MR. KISSINGER'S RESIGNATION THREAT WAS BEING EXAMINED BY FOREIGN EMBASSIES FOR POLICY IMPLICATIONS.

30. IF HE WERE TO LEAVE, A LARGE VOID WOULD BE FORMED IN THE FOREIGN POLICY MACHINERY, SINCE THE DEPARTMENT HAS ONLY A DEPUTY SECRETARY-DESIGNATE, ROBERT S. INGERSOLL, A FORMER BUSINESS EXECUTIVE WITH MINIMAL EXPERIENCE IN FOREIGN AFFAIRS.

31. "BLUFF IS DOUBTED" - ONE FRIEND SAID MR. KISSINGER
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WAS NOT BLUFFING ABOUT RESIGNING IF HE WERE NOT CLEARED TO HIS SATISFACTION.

32. "HE WOULD NOT MAKE THAT STATEMENT IF HE DID NOT KNOW THE CONSEQUENCES," HE SAID.

33. THE DEPARTMENT SAID THE PUBLIC RESPONSE TO MR. KISSINGER'S NEWS CONFERENCE HAD BEEN RUNNING ABOUT 10 TO 1 IN HIS FAVOR, WITH MORE THAN 100 MESSAGES RECEIVED SO FAR, MOST OF THEM URGING HIM TO STAY IN OFFICE.

34. REMARKS ON CAPITOL HILL WERE SIMILAR. SENATORS FROM BOTH PARTIES DEPLORED THAT MR. KISSINGER HAD TO RESPOND TO ARTICLES SUGGESTING HE WAS NOT COMPLETELY CANDID.

35. "IT IS OUTRAGEOUS THAT SECRETARY OF STATE KISSINGER, WHO HAS ACHIEVED SUCH DIPLOMATIC SUCCESSES UNDER VERY DIFFICULT CIRCUMSTANCES, MUST NOW CARRY THE EXTRA BURDEN OF SERIOUS AND MISLEADING INNUENDO AGAINST HIM," SENATOR STROM THURMOND, REPUBLICAN OF SOUTH CAROLINA, SAID.

36. SENATOR BENNET JOHNSTON, DEMOCRAT OF LOUISIANA, SAID: "I BELIEVE DR. KISSINGER TO BE AN HONEST MAN AND A GREAT AMERICAN. HE DESERVES A SPEEDY AND JUST VINDICATION BY THE CONGRESS."

37. SENATOR EDWARD J. GURNEY, REPUBLICAN OF FLORIDA, JOINED IN THE ATTACK ON THE PRESS, SAYING THAT "THE IRRESPONSIBLE AND VICIOUS MEDIA ATTACKS UPON SECRETARY KISSINGER WHILE HE IS WITH THE PRESIDENT UPON A MOST DELICATE DIPLOMATIC MISSION-SEEKING TO BRING PEACE TO THE MIDEAST-CAN DO NOTHING BUT DESTROY OUR EFFECTIVENESS IN FOREIGN RELATIONS."

38. "THE MEDIA HAS GONE WILD AGAIN," HE SAID "ANYTHING GOES WITH THEM, WHETHER IT DESTROYS A MAN, OUR NATION, OR INDEED, OUR HOPES FOR WORLDWIDE PEACE."

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